

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: BELGIAN CD CANDIDACY

REF: (A) STATE 179515, (B) GENEVA 11515

1. BELGIAN EMBASSY MINISTER DE LA BARRE CALLED ON IO
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HELMAN AGAIN (FOR EARLIER
CONVERSATION SEE REF A) ON JULY 26 TO DISCUSS SELECTION
OF NEW MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CD).

2. ON INSTRUCTIONS, DE LA BARRE OUTLINED FOLLOWING
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BELGIAN VIEWS:

-- THERE SHOULD BE EIGHT, NOT FIVE ADDITIONAL SEATS ON
CD. THREE OF THESE ADDITIONAL SEATS MIGHT GO TO THE
NON-ALIGNED, THREE TO THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS
GROUP (HE MENTIONED AUSTRALIA, A NATO COUNTRY, AND
FINLAND OR AUSTRIA), AND TWO TO STATES "ASSIMILATED;

TO THE USSR SUCH AS CUBA.

-- A SYSTEM OF ROTATING CD SEATS MAY BE DESIRABLE IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE DESIRE OF MANY SMALLER WESTERN (E.G., BENELUX AND SCANDINAVIAN) COUNTRIES TO JOIN CD.

-- CONSULTATIONS ON NEW CD MEMBERS SHOULD PREFERABLY BE HELD IN CAPITALS OR IN GENEVA, NOT IN NEW YORK WHERE THERE MIGHT BE PRESSURE TO DIVIDE THE 8 ADDITIONAL SEATS AMONG THE 5 REGIONAL GROUPS RATHER THAN SIMPLY AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED, WEST AND EASTERN-ORIENTED STATES. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITHIN NATO.

3. DE LA BARRE WAS STILL UNSURE WHETHER HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN UP THE CD ENLARGEMENT ISSUE WITH THE USSR, BUT UNDERTOOK TO FIND OUT AND INFORM DEPARTMENT.

4. IN RESPONSE, HELMAN SAID WE WERE STILL IN "PROCESS OF FINDING A PROCESS;" WHILE SOVIETS HAD INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA, FRENCH HAD REJECTED THAT POSSIBILITY. HELMAN STATED U.S. WANTS TO DISCUSS WITH USSR, FRANCE AND UK QUESTIONS SUCH AS NUMBER OF SEATS AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION. HE NOTED SOVIETS HAVE STATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR 5 ADDITIONAL SEATS, AND OPINED IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO GET SOVIET AGREE-
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MENT TO 8 ADDITIONAL SEATS. ON ROTATION, HELMAN SAID U.S. SEES SERIOUS DRAWBACKS, NOTABLY THAT IT WOULD DIMINISH EXPERTISE OF MEMBER COUNTRIES; ON OTHER HAND, IT IS TRUE ROTATION WOULD DIMINISH PRESSURE FOR EXPANSION.

5. HELMAN REPEATED TO DE LA BARRE THAT IT SEEMED DOUBTFUL NATO CONSULTATIONS WOULD LEAD TO A DECISION AS TO WHICH NATO COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES SHOULD BE SELECTED. DE LA BARRE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS PROBABLY AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT.

6. FOR GENEVA: WE NOTE THAT SUBSTANCE OF BELGIAN DEMARCHE IN GENEVA (REF B) IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT REPORTED ABOVE. YOU SHOULD REITERATE TO BELGIANS THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO GENEVA, CCD-FOCUSED CONSULTATIONS ON CD MEMBERSHIP, AND THAT WE DO NOT YET HAVE A FIRM POSITION ON PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION NOR ON SPECIFIC CHOICES. AS REGARDS BELGIAN ROTATION PROPOSAL, WE SEE SEVERAL SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS: ROTATION WOULD DIMINISH EXPERTISE AND HENCE EFFECTIVENESS OF CD MEMBERS, SINCE EXPERTISE NORMALLY DERIVES PRINCIPALLY FROM EXPERIENCE; ROTATION OF NNWS, INCLUDING THOSE NOW ON

CCD, WOULD RELEGATE THESE STATES TO A SECONDARY STATUS,
AND WOULD SEEM INCONSISTENT WITH STATED UNDERSTANDING
THAT ALL OF THE 27 NNWS CURRENTLY MEMBERS OF THE CCD
WHO SO DESIRE WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE CD. ACCORDINGLY,
WE HAVE RESERVATIONS IN REGARD TO PROPOSAL FOR

ROTATION, AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT ONLY
IF THERE WERE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT AMONG
CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE NEGOTIATING
BODY.

VANCE

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NNN

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